



**Testimony to the Public Health Committee**

**Submitted by Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut**

**March 20, 2013**

**In Support of**

**SB 1064, An Act Concerning the Administration of Medication in Nursing Homes by Certain Nurse's Aides**

LeadingAge Connecticut, a membership organization representing over one hundred and thirty mission-driven and not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults throughout the continuum of long term care including not-for-profit nursing homes. Our members are sponsored by religious, fraternal, community, and municipal organizations that are committed to providing quality care and services to their residents and clients. Our member organizations, many of which have served their communities for generations, are dedicated to expanding the world of possibilities for aging.

On behalf of LeadingAge Connecticut, I would like to submit the following testimony.

LeadingAge Connecticut represents the non-profit nursing homes in the state and we are supportive of the concept of expanding the use of medication technicians to the nursing home setting as long as the use of such personnel in the nursing home setting is not made mandatory. When implemented in other states, medication technician programs have proven to be successful in the nursing home setting.

The use of medication technicians is currently mandated in the residential care home and home health care settings and therefore it makes sense to expand it to the nursing home setting where there would be an even higher level of nursing oversight of the medication technician. In addition, this proposal would require that the medication technician working in a nursing home also be a certified nursing assistant.

In general, we would like to encourage state agencies to work together to review the current system of training non-licensed persons to administer medications and to create a more effective and efficient way to deliver that training. We would encourage the state to utilize a universal curriculum and certification process that would be applicable across settings. Long term health care delivery is a growing field and the ability to offer education and training to individuals in the community who can then seek job placement in a variety of settings is an idea worthy of pursuing. Training programs utilizing a universal curriculum taught at the high school and community college levels could offer an opportunity for young people to enter this field. It would also provide a more efficient and consistent mechanism for training staff who are already employed. Finally, an established, universal training module could be utilized to potentially expand the medication technician option to other health care settings as the Department of Public Health and State Legislature see fit.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

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